

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 1:00 PM

Jacaranda Room, Community Center Volunteer Park
12050 West Sunrise Boulevard
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

Chair Estenoz called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM. Roll call was taken (see attendance below). The minutes of the November 06 meeting were approved (later in the meeting). The Chair mentioned that it would be a three-hour meeting and commended the Technical Team for doing a great job in preparing information for the Task Force's review, and then turned the floor over to the Chair of the Technical Team, Albert Perez, the Technical Team report. Mr. Perez explained that Mr. Crouse would present the ranking of regional projects (Regional Project Prioritization Matrix).

Vice Chair Jacobs referred to a handout titled WRTF Water Supply Milestones and asked if future land use and population figures were used in preparing the demand numbers in it. Dr. Jurado clarified that the revised population projections discussed in a previous Task Force meeting were used in its preparation. Vice Chair Jacobs asked if sea level rise had been considered and the potential loss of eastern wellfields. Mr. Perez indicated that this hadn't been specifically addressed. Mr. Brown mentioned that there is a FDEP Reuse Task Force considering credits and offsets.

The Chair then asked Mr. Crouse to make his presentation, "Relative Values of Regional Projects Concepts". Mr. Crouse began by pointing out the Regional Project Prioritization Matrix and mentioned that it had been prepared through a conceptual approach, with the County being divided into three regions. Efficiency was one of the first criteria examined. Some cities, like Cooper City, were not included because they can meet future need with water conservation alone. He discussed included projects by region, looking at physical location, existing potential projects, needs, and partnerships. He then discussed what is being done separately in the way of supply projects and the amount of water they would provide. He then discussed the "scoring" system for the projects as shown in the matrix. These included meeting multiple objectives, utilizing stranded capacity, capital and operation and maintenance costs, permitability, environmental issues, energy demand, stakeholder acceptance, technology, reliability of water quantity and quality, compatibility, and outside funding opportunities. The C-51 Reservoir project, reuse expansion in the Region 1 area, reuse for irrigation in the Region 2 area, and expansion of the reverse osmosis (RO) plant in Region 3 scored highest. Mr. Crouse concluded his presentation and asked for comments. Vice Chair Jacobs said water conservation is the "main show" and asked how the membership felt it should be quantified and if it should be included in the matrix. The Chair asked if the Technical Team had a percentage reduction goal. Mr. Crouse reiterated that conservation goals are built into the permit analysis. There was additional discussion about conservation. Mr. Hanks suggested that depending on where you were in the County, conservation efforts needed to be targeted differently. Mr. Perez stated that the Prioritization Matrix included "bricks and mortar" type projects only. The Chair asked whether or not water

conservation should be treated as “low hanging fruit” or recognize that there may be some capital costs associated with conservation. Dr. Jurado offered that water conservation could be included in the matrix. Vice Chair Jacobs mentioned that water conservation strategies do require some level of capital investment, for replacing lines, educational costs, etc.. She would like to see conservation remain a priority for the Task Force. Chair Estenoz asked if the Task Force would like to see water conservation ranked as the other projects had been ranked. She asked if the Technical Team could add an additional column to the Prioritization Matrix for water conservation, and subject it to the same criteria as other projects and whether or not water conservation options could be evaluated this way. There was a brief discussion about a “culture of conservation”. Deputy Mayor Rosen suggested water conservation should be its own subject. Vice Mayor Aronson suggested the perhaps leak detection programs should be considered as capital expenses. Mr. Crouse said the considerable conservation value of the C-51 Reservoir project perhaps wasn’t considered in the matrix, in that water resources will be saved that are currently being lost to tide. Mr. Perez mentioned that it is always incumbent upon utilities to look at conservation, but if we look ahead a couple of years, we still need to make decisions with regard to projects that can definitely yield water, key decisions need to be made fairly soon and water conservation alone cannot ensure long term permanent supplies. Mr. Hanks suggested we look at conservation as a separate category and may need to have a different evaluation for it, perhaps list out different conservation strategies and rank them. Vice Chair Jacobs agreed to that approach. Mayor Cooper said if conservation ends up being the #1 Task Force AWS strategy, and noted that consideration needs to be given to how that will impact other projects that may need to be considered. There was further discussion on whether water conservation should be part of the project prioritization. Mr. Good suggested that it should be a prioritization of strategies and not projects.

Chair Estenoz talked about watershed politics and the L-8 basin, of which C-51 Reservoir is only a part, and there will need to be a lot of consensus building if this project is to move and it will be necessary for the leaders in Broward County to demonstrate that they are committed to water conservation with their own water before seeking outside water. Councilmember Starkey asked about the ranking and why some of the municipalities that had needs coming up soon didn’t end up on the priority list. Mr. Crouse and Dr. Jurado indicated that the urgency of demand was not considered in the ranking. There was a discussion of losing the savings made through conservation by reducing permit allowances. Chair Estenoz recognized that this was a misconception and the South Florida Water Management District (District) Governing Board would not do that. That direction would have to come from the Florida Legislature. Mr. Hanks asked if there was any consideration to limiting land use. Vice Chair Jacobs indicated that the District only comes in at the end. Chair Estenoz indicated that there is a new change for concurrency at the land use amendment phase to ensure early coordination. She indicated the only guarantees to water are what the permit allows and not beyond that time frame, municipalities/utilities that think that they own water beyond that time frame are mistaken. There was some additional discussion about “ownership” of water. Vice Mayor Allegra Webb Murphy indicated that her municipality did not have their own permit as they purchased water from Fort Lauderdale and wondered if Fort Lauderdale could take their water. Mr. Crouse indicated that it was typical that there was a large user agreement between the municipalities which specify quantities to be delivered and that would be a violation of the agreement. It was mentioned that typically these were long term agreements.

Chair Estenoz asked Toni Edwards to make a brief presentation on the County's water conservation initiatives. Ms. Edwards provided a recap of the County's focus on water conservation, mentioning the various partnerships and initiatives, including Water Matters Day (held since 2003), the NatureScape Broward program and Know the Flow (2004), NatureScape Irrigation Service (2005), and she explained each of them in greater detail recounting the progress made by each program. She mentioned that there was currently some resistance by some municipalities to continue participation in the NatureScape Irrigation Service and requested the Task Force's assistance in seeing that the type of savings realized through the program to date continue to be realized by support for the initiative. Vice Mayor Aronson indicated that Coconut Creek had just approved the five-year renewal of the NatureScape Irrigation Service agreement, but thought it important these savings be presented more broadly, particularly when such an agreement comes before the municipal commissions. Dr. Jurado noted that each municipality had been briefed on the program and its benefits. Vice Chair Jacobs reiterated that this is one more example of costs incurred with water conservation and why it is important to support these regional efforts. There was some further discussion and additional praise for the program.

Deputy Mayor Rosen mentioned he had to leave the meeting, but asked to recognize Hector Castro who was leaving the City of Sunrise to accept a job in Massachusetts. There was applause for Mr. Castro and good wishes offered to him.

The Chair asked if there was agreement among the Task Force members that the title of the Prioritization Matrix be changed to the Regional Infrastructure Project Prioritization Matrix to reflect that fact that it only includes capital projects and not water conservation projects per se, to which there was agreement. She asked the Technical Team to come back at the January 22 meeting with a more comprehensive analysis of water conservation projects that include a capital type analysis, showing where the biggest bang for the buck can be gotten and recommendations on which water conservation strategies to pursue. She stressed that the water conservation analysis should be quantifiable as much as possible, and she asked the Technical Team to consider establishing a numerical target (of water savings). A motion was approved to that effect. The Chair asked for a small language change on item #9 in the WRTF Strategies and Recommendations document addressing the C-51 to say "continue to explore the C-51 Reservoir project as a regional strategy...", because there are additional environmental issues to consider. A motion was passed to that effect. Vice Chair Jacobs asked that when the recommendations come back in January, that the Technical Team provide additional information about what the other environmental issues are. Dr. Jurado mentioned that a white paper on remaining C-51 Reservoir project issues has been drafted and is in the process of being vetted by the Technical Team. That paper should be available for the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Aronson had some additional questions on the WRTF Strategies and Recommendations. She referred to the cooling tower recommendation and how it related to proposed changes to the Florida Building Code. Steve Bassett provided some clarification on the subject in terms of which is the preferred route to go, amendment of the Florida Building Code or Broward County Code of Ordinances. There was general discussion about whether or not requiring the harvesting of cooling tower condensate and wastewater should be enacted through a statewide amendment of the Florida Building Code, a local amendment of the Florida Building Code or amendment of the Broward County Code of Ordinances. There was general agreement that achieving amendment of the Florida Building Code as a

statewide measure would be difficult. The County Attorney (Michael Owens) was asked to weigh in on whether amendment of the Broward County Code of Ordinances would apply countywide. He indicated that if this was something to be perceived as a building code matter, it may not fall into the category of being considered countywide under the County charter, but if it was considered as an environmental measure it could be considered to apply throughout the County. It involves policy and he could not answer at this time. He did mention that recent changes by the Florida Legislature to laws regarding irrigation at the state level indicate that there is direction to consider water savings to be part of environmental policy. There was some further discussion on how to craft the amendments. Vice Chair Jacobs clarified that the conversation to date on the Task Force has been a local amendment of the Florida Building Code, not amendment of the Broward County Code of Ordinances and there was general agreement that this is the approach that should be taken.

Commissioner Aronson asked for some clarification regarding a recommendation in the Strategies and Recommendations document for laying reuse lines in rights-of-way and canals was intended in imply laying the lines in the canals or just along side them. There was a brief discussion about this topic and the Chair mentioned that she found the idea of using the 1,800 miles of canals that we have to lay reuse lines in them was intriguing and she didn't know of any legal reason why this couldn't be explored.

Chair Estenoz summed up what her understanding was of how the Task Force wished to proceed on the recommendations and other issues discussed at the meeting. She mentioned Technical Team tasks, and then discussed the recommendation regarding continued meetings of the Task Force and potential schedules beyond the currently scheduled life of the Task Force. Vice Chair Jacobs mentioned that some continuity was needed to ensure the goals of the Task Force are realized, to include perhaps meetings held at least twice per year. Vice Mayor Aronson felt meetings should continue quarterly, because if twice-yearly meetings were held, and someone missed one of them, they wouldn't have the opportunity to participate for an entire year. Lacking a quorum toward the end of the meeting precluded a vote on the subject, but there was general agreement among remaining members to go with quarterly meetings. This item will be brought back for a vote at the January 22 meeting. Commissioner McCluskey suggested that the Task Force consider a recommendation to mandate plumbers and plumbing fixture vendors install and sell water-efficient fixtures. Chair Estenoz asked the Technical Team to look into this.

The Chair indicated there needed to be one more meeting before moving to a less frequent schedule and indicated she could not make the proposed January 8 meeting. The Task Force members generally agreed to move the next meeting to January 22. Dr. Jurado acknowledged Toni Edwards for putting together the WRTF Strategies and Recommendations and WRTF Water Supply Milestones documents. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek

Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners

Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach
Shannon Estenoz, Chair and Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
Lamar Fisher, Mayor, City of Pompano Beach
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac
Thomas Good, Vice Chair, South Broward Drainage District Board of Commissioners
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors
Kristin Jacobs, Vice Chair and Commissioner, Broward County
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise
Susan Starkey, Council Member, Town of Davie
Allegra Webb Murphy, Vice Mayor, City of Oakland Park

Technical Team:

Steven Bassett, South Florida Chapter U.S. Green Building Council
William Brant, Director, City of Hallandale Beach Public Works
Linda Brien, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Randy Brown, Director, City of Pompano Beach Utilities
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director, Town of Davie Utilities
Hector Castro, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise
John Crouse for Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division
Julie Leonard, Assistant Director, City of Fort Lauderdale Utility Services
Juan Martin Cala, Asst. Director, Dept. of Eng. & Env. Services, City of Lauderhill
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Albert Perez, Director, City of Hollywood Public Utilities
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
Susan Smith for David Womacks, Director, City of Oakland Park Public Works

Other Attendees:

Pattie Gertenbach, E Sciences
Maria Loucraft, City of Pompano beach Utilities
Charlotte St. John, Broward County WWS
Jeff Bednar, Equipoise Water, Inc.
Tom Bednar, Equipoise Water, Inc.
Ben Chen, Chen & Associates
Reddy Chitepu, Margate
Rosemarie Fallon, Broward County PRD
Michael C. Owens, Broward County Attorney
Mark Abbott, AECOM
Ed Kent, Parsons
Luis Casado, MWH
Todd Hiteshew, Fort Lauderdale
Don Gianocoli, Lauderhill
Stew Magenheimer, CDM

Carole Morris, SFWMD
Patrick Davis, Hazen & Sawyer
Rafael Frias, Black & Veatch
Chris Van Vliet, Lauderdale Lakes
Katie Lelis, Broward County NRPMD
Eric Myer, Broward County EPGMD
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch
Kirk Martin, CDM
Mike Zygnerski, Broward County NRPMD
Glen Humphrey, MWH
Jose Lopez, SFWMD
Toni Edwards, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div
Rudy Rudolph, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div